5/1/70

Daar Harold,

I was enourmously glad to receive your 4/27 and 4/28. I do very much appreciate your taking the time to answer my letter, especially so since you are so busy.

While I am pressed for time now and cannot go over the letters in detail, I do accept the things you wrote and am in agreemnt. I believe that we have an understanding, one which perhaps cannot even be accurately stated. As you know, our relationship is priceless to me, and I must and will be more cautious of anything which threatens it. This is to say that I must be more aware or cognizant of those values which I treasure, and far more considerate toward those I respect and admire, even where I may have been quite unintentionally inconsiderate.

I'm sure this all was equally hard for you, and I would never think you had any intent to hurt: I know you could not.

Connally pix: John showed me a picture of the 3 wrist fragments. The actual X-rays show at least 5 fragments.

399Pic: Will send / it is enclosed copy of covering letter soon as I can get to Xerox (maybe tomorrow). Enclosed is the certifying note you request. John never indicated that he would give me a copy of his base photo, and I do not think he would. Letter ordering it from A is enclosed.

Nichols/Lifton: John has answered my letter on the lung bruises. Surprisingly enough for him, it is informative. He says that he is sure the pleural cavity was penetrated and that lung tissue was transversed. He does leave certain details open, but I do not think it wise to continue this intercourse with him (his letter invites no response). I may be able to get the rest from Fil. It also occured to me that I could write Wecht on the business of the lung bruises and ask his opinion. Have done this on other matters and, while he usually does not say much, has been helpful.

Speaking of Fil, the time has arrived for me to call him about your meeting with him. Before I call, why don't you write me about when you can get up here, best time of day, time you would like to spend with him, etc., so that I know what to say and can make somw kind of plans. I hope you still want to do this, even if you must delay because of other matters.

(I imagine you must be doing some sort of follow-up of the LBJ-CBS thing. Our papers up here did not cover it in great detail at all. It does seem quite significant, especially his request for deletion because of "national security." I resent that CBS would go along with this, but it was a part of their contract. What do you make of this?)

Lifton still has not answered my second letter to him, which was in reply to his first to me. When he does, I will delay for a long time and probably back off. It seems that there now is a good chance I might be able to get copies of the tape. While I may not be able to get much, I might as well use it to get something from him--pictures. I'm not really concerned with this now for that is all

becoming less and less important to me.

Enclosed is the tracing you requested. It can be overlaid on the photostat which you have. Of course, it is almost all hypothetical, since the info he gave me does not really lend to accurate sketching. Dick seems right in asserting that either something is missing in what Morgan told me or something was done to the body before X-ray taking. Bullets such as the kind we postulate can travel through tissue leaving small fragments, with the major portion becoming trapped in the skin on the opposite side. This produced a "lump" visible from the outside and usually, according to Fil, is indicative of a bullet beneath the skin which can be removed by making a small slit in the skin. But things such as that, while physically possible, verge on the unlikely in this case because of the autopsy.

I am learning more and more that pride in one's work, which Lifton and you might share equally, is exceeded by pride in one's integrity, in things of which others usually cannot know and of which there is not, in the end, something material and finite to show. This, I think, underlies the line which divides the Nichols and Liftons from the Weisbergs and Bernabeis, and it certainly is giving me what I regard as the proper direction.

Dick once ended a letter to me with something I found light, happy, and encouraging. I repeat it here.

Cheers,

Howard